

Renate Otto
14069 Diamond Court
Grass Valley, CA 95945

DCC

Board
PCC



Dear Board Members,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed interim limits for effluents that drain out the "Magenta Drain" from Empire Mine State Park.

This waterway is not "out in the country." It passes thru a community park

within 1/4 of Grass Valley City Hall then joins a small creek that flows past Hennessy elementary school. From there, it flows thru Grass Valley downtown, literally one block from Main St.

The proposed interim limits for cadmium, 2100 ug/L is 8000 times the limits deemed acceptable in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin. At 5 ppb cadmium causes nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramps, salivation, sensory disturbances, liver injury, convulsions, shock and renal failure. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that cadmium is carcinogenic to humans. A concentration of 0.001 mg/l in freshwater hardness above 100 mg/l CaCO₃ is considered harmful to aquatic life. (<http://www.probeinternational.org/ebi/contaminants/cadmium.html>). EPA has set a maximum contaminant level of 0.005 ug/L cadmium for drinking water

(<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html#mcls>)

The proposed interim limits on lead, 560 ug/L is 2000 times the limits deemed acceptable in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin. The Centers for Disease Control says lead poisoning is the most common and devastating environmental disease affecting young children.

(<http://orgs.unca.edu/eqi/lead.htm>) The EPA has set a maximum contaminant level of ZERO ug/L lead for drinking water with an "action level" of .015 ug/L (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html#mcls>)

The proposed interim limits on Thallium, 5900 ug/L is 3000 times the limits deemed acceptable in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin. Thallium can affect the human nervous system, lung, heart, liver, and kidney if large amounts are eaten or drunk for short periods of time.

Temporary hair loss, vomiting, and diarrhea can also occur and death may result after exposure to large amounts of thallium for short periods.

Thallium can be fatal from a dose as low as 1 gram.

(<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/phs54.html>) The EPA has set a maximum contaminant level of .005 ug/L lead for drinking water
(<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html#mcls>)

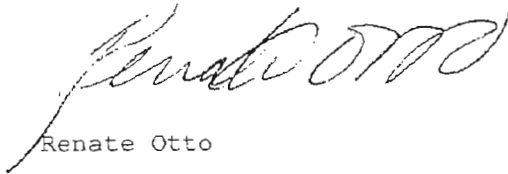
Levels for Zinc and Copper, known toxins for aquatic life, are several hundred times the limits deemed acceptable in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin.

The Empire mine has been aware of this problem ever since the Regional Board notified them in 1981. We are concerned that the park has not addressed this problem sooner. We are concerned that the park recently embarked on the multi-million dollar construction of a historical adit "rice" for visitors before protecting the well-being of the local residents.

We believe that the State Parks have the resources to address this problem well before the year 2010, as the interim limit allows. We are concerned that the parks have already had enough time to address this problem, and are not taking seriously the concerns of our community.

Please reduce the acceptable interim constituent levels and require final limits be met before 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Renate Otto". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Renate Otto

916-464-4645



Dear Board Members,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed interim limits for effluents that drain out the "Magenta Drain" from Empire Mine State Park. This waterway is not "out in the country." It passes thru a community park within 1/4 of Grass Valley City Hall then joins a small creek that flows past Hennessy elementary school. From there, it flows thru Grass Valley downtown, literally one block from Main St.

The proposed interim limits for cadmium, 2100 ug/l is 8000 times the limits deemed acceptable in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin. At 5 ppb cadmium causes nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramps, salivation, sensory disturbances, liver injury, convulsions, shock and renal failure. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that cadmium is carcinogenic to humans. A concentration of 0.001 mg/l in freshwater hardness above 100 mg/l CaCO₃ is considered harmful to aquatic life. EPA has set a maximum contaminant level of 0.005 ug/L cadmium for drinking water.

The Empire mine has been aware of this problem ever since the Regional Board notified them in 1981. We are concerned that the park has not addressed this problem sooner. We are concerned that the park recently embarked on the multi-million dollar construction of a historical adit "ride" for visitors before protecting the well-being of the local residents.

We believe that the State Parks have the resources to address this problem well before the year 2010, as the interim limit allows. We are concerned that the parks have already had enough time to address this problem, and are not taking seriously the concerns of our community.

Please reduce the acceptable interim constituent levels and require final limits be met before 2010.

Sincerely,

Karen Kroeger
18309 Tomales Way
Nevada City CA 95959